

ABORIGINAL NAMES OF THE ANIMALS OF THE LYONS RIVER DISTRICT.

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In April, 1918, I had the interesting experience of conducting round the W.A. Museum three full-blooded aboriginals from the district where the Lyons River flows into the Gascoyne. These aboriginals were in the employ of Mr. Rutherford, who has a station in that locality, and who had brought them with him to Perth. They had never been in the city before, and the oldest could speak very little English. One of the younger men appeared to be highly intelligent and could speak English fairly well.

They were greatly interested in the animals in the Museum collection, and readily picked out those found in their own district. For some of these the younger men knew no aboriginal name, but the oldest man seemed to have a name for everything he recognised except the Black-breasted Plover (*Zonifer tricolor*), which they stated had only appeared in the district within the last few years. I am satisfied that the names given me are *bona-fide*, especially as a number of those given to birds are the same as those in use near the North-West Cape as recorded by Mr. T. Carter, and several of those for animals are similar to words from neighbouring localities given in Curr's "Australian Race." The difficulty of transcribing aboriginal names into English is well known. The method I adopted was to repeat the word given me until the aboriginals were satisfied that I had got it right and then to put it down and repeat it once more. In general the consonants should be pronounced as in English, the vowels more as in French.

The following is a list of the animals recognised:—

Mammals—

Dingo (*Canis dingo*)—Napara.

Bats (*Chiroptera*), all species including Flying-foxes—Koralyajee.

Kangaroos and Wallabies. Four species occur in the district, viz. :—

Red Kangaroo (*Macropus rufus occidentalis*)—Maloo.

Rock Kangaroo (*Macropus robustus cervinus*)—Bigoora.

Hare-Wallaby (*Lagorchestes hirsutus*)—Warrawya.

Rock Wallaby (*Petrogale lateralis*)—Wallangya.

Opossums. Only one species found in the district, viz. :—

Common Opossum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*)—Wyulda.

Phascogales, several species—Mandagory.

Bandicoots. Only one species found in the district, viz. :—

Rabbit Bandicoot (*Peragale lagotis*)—Yilgai.

Native Cat (*Dasyurus geoffroyi*)—Teroro.

Echidna (*Tachyglossus aculeatus ineptus*)—Jirrybarry.

Reptiles (continued)—

Large snake with black head, probably the Black-headed Python (*Aspidites melanocephalus*)—Molyarro.

Children's Python (*Liasis childreni*)—Waigur.

Snake like a Death-adder (*Acanthophis*)—Bélbo.

Fresh-water Turtle—Canderra.

The only turtle in the district is quite different from the Long-necked Turtle (*Chelodina oblonga*) from the South-West. Its neck is short. It is probably either *Emydura macquarii* or *E. australis*, but these species are not represented in the Museum collection so could not be shown them.

Crocodiles are unknown in the district.

Amphibia—

Frogs (*Hylidæ* and *Cystignathidæ*, all species)—Malgoora.

Fish—

Only two kinds of fish are found in the district :—

Silver Perch (*Therapon bidyana*)—Kanma.

This species is found in all the waterholes.

Mullet (*Mugil dobula*)—Wiloworran.

This fish is found in the Gascoyne River as far up as the mouth of the Lyons.

CONCLUSION.

The foregoing vocabulary of animal names seemed to me worth placing on record, as it is probable that even those who are in constant touch with the natives in the district in question are unacquainted with the native names of many of the rarer animals.

I had thought of attempting a comparison of the Lyons District names with the native names of animals which have been recorded for other districts, but have not at present the necessary time for such a work. A large number of animal names are given in Moore's Vocabulary, which deals specially with the aboriginal dialects of the Swan, Avon, Moore, Murray, Vasse, and King George Sound tribes. In Gould's great works on the Mammals and Birds of Australia the aboriginal names of the various species in the same region are given, having evidently been collected by John Gilbert. In Curr's "Australian Race," Vol. 1, the aboriginal words for certain selected objects are given for a great many West Australian localities. The animals selected by Curr are: Kangaroo, Opossum, Tame dog, Wild dog, Emu, Black duck, Wood duck, Pelican, Laughing Jackass, Native Companion, White cockatoo, Crow, Swan, Fish, Lobster, Crayfish, Mosquito, Fly and Snake. Mr. T. Carter, in his account of the birds occurring in the region of the North-West Cape, Emu, Vol. III., gives the aboriginal names of a large number of the birds, whilst Mr. G. C. Shortridge, in his paper on the geographical distribution of the Marsupials and Monotremes of South-west Australia also gives aboriginal names.

The following table shows native names for a few animals, taken from these sources:—

—	Kangaroo.	Opossum.	Emu.	Pelican.
DeGrey R. (Curr) ...	Mungaroo	Wallambine	Kullya ...	Ngurlawanda Wirmalo
Shaw R. (Curr) ...	Badjeerie...	Koobalyie	Yalliberry	Thudaarra
Nichol Bay (Curr) ...	Mungaroo	Wolumberree	Yallyberree	Kandannara
N.W. Cape (Curr)	Marajaak...	Yallooberry Yallabiddee (Carter)	
Lyons R. (Alexander)	Maloo ... Bigoora	Wyulda ...	Yallobiddy	Bimba
Upper Sandford R. (Curr)	Marloo ...	Wyadoo ...	Yalabiddy	Jilakarby
Sharks Bay (Curr) ...	Yowerda	Yoorda ...	Kaliat ...	Churuna
Mouth of Murchison (Curr)	Yowada ...	Weurda ...	Cullya ...	Marnbu
Northampton (Curr)	Yoorda ...	Kommale	Kallilia	Arranger
Geraldton (Curr) ...	Yooada ...	Waiada ...	Kulire ...	Knulum- berry
New Norcia (Curr)...	Yongar (m.) Wora (f.)	Cumal (m.) Cular (f.)	Wegie ...	Nirimba
South-West (various authors)	Yungar (m.) Worre (f.)	Koomul or Goomal	Widjee or Watcha or Waitch	Nerimba, Boodalan or Bootlung

This seems to indicate that the Lyons River natives use for the Opossum a name similar to that in use southwards to Geraldton. For the Emu they use a name which is found northwards, with slight modifications, to the DeGrey River. Their name for the Pelican seems to be peculiar to themselves. The two species of Kangaroo found in the district have special names, and this makes comparison with vocabularies in which a single name is given for Kangaroo decidedly dubious. It appears, however, that on the Sandford River the Red Kangaroo is known by the same name, whilst on the Shaw River the name for the Rock Kangaroo occurs slightly modified.